

Eastbourne & D.M.C.C.

An AMCA Regulated Club. Affiliated to the South Eastern Centre A.C.U.



visit our website
www.edmcctrails.com

Twistgrip

CLUB NEWS FEBRUARY 2025

Club Officials

President:- Thomas Moss

Chairman:- Steve Stretton

Vice Chairman:- Steve Baldock

Secretary:- Pete Collins

Treasurer:- Alan Peach

Trials Secretary:- Gloria Moss

Club Captain:- Derek Strudwick

Twistgrip Producer:- Roger Strudwick

Committee:-

Made up from club the membership all members welcome. Meetings are held at the British Queen Willingdon Triangle 1st Tuesday of the month 7.30 start members welcome.

News.....

Well Done

Adam Goodsell finishing runner up in the southeastern centre championship for Experts a mere 4 points behind the winner after 12 months of competition.

Reminder

Membership renewals are due for renewal from 1st January

You can Pay by BACS:-Lloyds Bank

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In this months issue

A Guide to Trials Etiquette a subject held dearly by the older generation, now this should raise a debate or two, club trial report from Pilmer Wood, and an insight to a club legend our Gloria.

Evening all

The go ahead Eastbourne committee are considering an evening series in the lighter months of May, June, and July subject to interest of course, these could be a mid week trial of say six sections set-up by the "old dribbling wrinkly

brigade" during the day after they've picked up the pensions from the post office of course, and could be cleared the following day, watch this space for updates with times dates and venue. And expressions of interest.

If you

have anything to say, or, want to include something, you can e-mail me direct

rogerstrud@hotmail.co.uk and I will try to include it in the next issue, go on, have go, I dare you. I'll proof it back to you for your approval before publishing.



Twistgrip rider of the month Adam Goodsell

E.&O.E.

The views and comments expressed in this club news are not necessarily the views and comments of the committee, and are intended to be a bit of fun and not offend anyone! If you have been affected or even offended by any comments made, please contact the club liaison officer Mr. Harris who will gladly take you to his happy place and set you straight!

January Club Trial

Pilmer Wood

Report Gloria Moss

Pictures Moss trials pics

The setting out team Steve Baldock, John Moore, Steve Stretton Derek Strudwick and Keith Strudwick did well with some easier and some longer, trickier sections (5 and 8). No 7 had a separate route for Yellows to keep them from the steeper area in the stream.



Cam Dawson gassing his way to second on the blues

It was dry but very cold, my hands went numb so not many photos as I couldn't press the shutter release button hard enough! The river sections got worse with water travelling up the banks, and there was the odd dismount here and there, but no damage other than pride!

Good to see a few visitors, a couple of familiar ones, and also another enquiry re trials generally, how to join the club and best bike to buy etc.

Our experts were saving their bikes and their energy for the Sidcup 60 the following day, unfortunately Tom Moss has Covid so unable to ride, but best of luck to all the others. Only Alan Peach had chosen that route, but opted for Blues to save setting out for 1 rider. He topped the class pipping Cam Dawson by 1 mark, with mates Steve Forrest and Eric Clarke split by 1 mark as well on 34 and 35 respectively. Our more solid riders in the class had bad day by



John Moore on his way to second on the yellows

their standards on over double the top score. Charlie Simpson was mid table having moved into adults now, and I know he is keen to progress to Whites when the Experts are riding and can give him some help.

Reds were topped by chairman Steve Stretton on his electric bike with Ian Cheshire 9 behind, and Nigel Hains 3rd. Kudos to Iain Rich and Chris Mephram who moved up from Yellows and gave it a try for two laps before retiring. Keep going guys, it was tricky in the greasy conditions and you will benefit at the months produce drier conditions. Youth red rider Flo Peach topped overall results on 36, without breaking a single nail of her fantastic looking manicure! No



Tony Errey spotted a little critter in trouble and just had to help it to safety, trials riders are good people.

A Guide To Trials Etiquette

Judging by the amount of comments in recent Twistgrip articles, I thought it's about time for some clarification. I copied this from a well known trials club up north, I tweaked them slightly to suit us southern softies! How many of us follow these basic rules, with more land being built on and trials land getting harder to find maybe it's time for a reality check.

Get there early and have the right money The Secretary of the Meeting will love you for it. It's not just you they're sorting out!

Filling in the Form - write clearly, then check it You do want us to get your name right in the results don't you? Same goes for Membership Forms too, please. If you're not sure on something, just ask a grown up.

Don't be a Carpark Hero/Paddock Galloper Wheelies are fun and you've waited all week to ride ... but cars and folk are expensive to have dents taken out of and you're responsible for any damage you - or your kids - cause. Please don't ride around the car park, always park where the car park attendant tells you.

Silent Zone signs mean just that If there's a Silent Zone sign, then there's no riding before the

Start. Don't even fire it up until Start time, please.

Attend the pre-Start briefing It's how we let you know important stuff like where all the Sections are and the number of laps you'll be doing. And the niggly bits - like any pot holes, cliff edges and other little things you just might want to know about.

Don't be a blocker

Walk up the Section first, then back down, until you know where you want to go and how. But don't get in the way of someone actually riding it. Or block the Observer's view.

Queuing - it's part of trials So be sociable and have a chat But don't queue jump. Just don't. It's not nice. After all, you wouldn't like it if someone did it to you.

Make sure your number is visible No number equals no score. Nothing more annoying riders riding without numbers, or the wrong Can they see the back one too mainly applies to OTC trials?

Pairs try and ride in pairs taking turns to observe each other, this is also a basic safety warning help will always be on hand should you have a catastrophic failure.

If a Section is too hard, it's OK to ask for a or take a 5 Don't be afraid to ask the Observer for a 5. It's sensible and everyone's done it at some time!

Ride your own trial By all means ask others how to do a Section - what gear, which line, how fast etc. But they may be more (or less) experienced than you or have a different style or bike. Bottom line is, take advice but do it your way.

Wait to be observed Don't ride the section until the Observer indicates they're ready. They

might miss that perfect Clean. Don't argue with the Observer over a score What they say goes. End of. And it's in the Rule book too. **When there's no Observer** do your share Park up at a suitable spot and hand the board to the next rider after writing down their score.

Never observe yourself Never put your own score on the Observer Card. You were all clean? Oh yeah??

Laps Do each section once per lap. If you don't, it's cheating. Only exception is if you've had a problem and are running very late or young inexperienced riders accompanied by their minder. Ask the Observer first, of course.

Always follow the marked course Hidden holes and quarry faces add to the fun. Also, that grass you're on is how the farmer earns his living, so we've marked you through where they want you and not where they don't. Don't mess it up, please. "Abuse it, we lose it, simple as that!"

Litter - don't leave any, And if you see any, please pick it up and take it home. Including this. Wasn't yours? Doesn't really matter, does it?

Don't bother the Observer is your friend, They'll have seen how everyone does (or doesn't) do it, so ask their advice if you want to give it a go but don't know how. Checking your score and that they've got all your laps down is fine, but don't waste their time or interrupt them when they're observing someone else.

While you're doing your thing in a Section, you want the Observer to watch you, don't you? So does everyone else!

Someone broken down? If someone has broken down or is stuck, check they're OK. It might be you next time. Maybe offer to take a message back to the Start.

Don't hang around If you're (almost) last, don't hang around. The Observers might just pull the sticks and go before you finish. Remember, they've been there all day. Thank the Observers after your last lap It's polite and you need them more than they need you.

Pulling up the flags After it's all over, offer to help pull up the Section's or carry the flags bags. It may be a long walk back to the Start and you're the one with the engine!

Be safe Don't do anything daft that might endanger yourself or someone/something else.

Clear up, or load up Once finished help clear up, or load up, don't start practicing your new found techniques.

If you're not in the trial, you can't ride there

Only those entered in the event or involved with organising it can ride on the land. Full stop, no exceptions. No, not even you! Most venues aren't available for practice at other times either. Don't go there without specific permission.

Get stuck in - and make new friends too Even if you're enjoying your trials, you'll find you enjoy it more and get to know who's who and what's what sooner if you get involved and maybe find out when the marking-out team are going to set the next trial up. Go along and do what you can to help. You'll be glad you did and so will we!

How the Hell did he do that !

Ok before we get started on this there will be no diverged secret or nuggets of information to a better riding technique. Every rider had to start somewhere & even if he ends up a super talented rider he probably started on a minibike at a club trial or on a C90 Honda Cub in a field somewhere, the latter is my introduction to the world of motored transport (I was hooked from that moment).

Now we have how out of the way let's look at riding trials, the skill to ride a motorcycle is a multi faceted one, 5 different levers, pedals, & throttle are required to ride a bike & a trials rider has to use all these available functions at the same time while using the brain power to pick a route over through a multiple amount of obstacles & normally through mud (unless your from the North where they have rocks).

Assuming you've taken up trials you will have taken the route of riding most weekends that you can & here is what most likely is taking place while you queue.

It happens to us all, we are happily sitting at the start of the section of our chosen route & rider from the route class above rolls into the section & proceeds to put on an acrobatic display of riding skills & manages to make short work of a jumble of obstacles that would make an Olympic athlete think twice.

A lot of riders in the queue will then shake their heads in amazement & proceed to do the best they can with the skill they possess.

I sit there wondering how did he or she get so good, they are essentially the same as me body wise, may have been riding for a longer time or maybe even less (which is really annoying).

Older or younger it makes no difference. I can never hope to get to that level of riding, I'm reasonably fit, experienced so why can they ride like that? Is it no fear, commitment, I see some riders & they never seem to get any better over years of riding so it can't be experience & myself I have good rides & bad rides but always will be stuck at my level.

Practice maybe? Nope it can't be that, I spent a week in Covid lockdown trying to learn to hop my bike, I just ended up looking stupid & out of breath with the neighbours looking on & trying to enjoy their sunny days in the garden Ruined by the noise of an inconsiderate bonehead not even riding his motorbike properly.

"I've tried to explain to them what trials is & why my bike doesn't need a seat but always just a slight smile & nod as I carry on jet washing mud in there direction".





So let's have a look at the amazing sport of indoor trials, trick riding really, as it's not trials they doing but brilliant all the same & the riders are just as good on the outdoor stuff too.

I watch with astonishment & disbelief when Toni Bou & the other top riders proceed to jump from one skinny 10ft high pole to an edge of a skip in a given timed section & leaves me wondering how this is even possible! They seem to float over massive distances upwards, downwards, across, whichever way the section builders care to arrange the obstacles, yes they do crash sometimes which

makes them human but even so can you imagine turning up & having to try to ride that level, I sometimes even look at the podium thing they start from & wonder if I could even ride off that.

What's worse is that my wife is constantly asking me after each gravity defying move they make "could you do that"? answer NO every time, then she counters with "well you're not very good then are you".

On the other hand I look at riders who can't seem to clear the most basic of obstacles & wonder if they are thinking bloody hell I hope the rest of the day is easier (it never is).

I also think how the hell did they make it so far into the woods, the in between bits are harder than the section he is trying to ride!

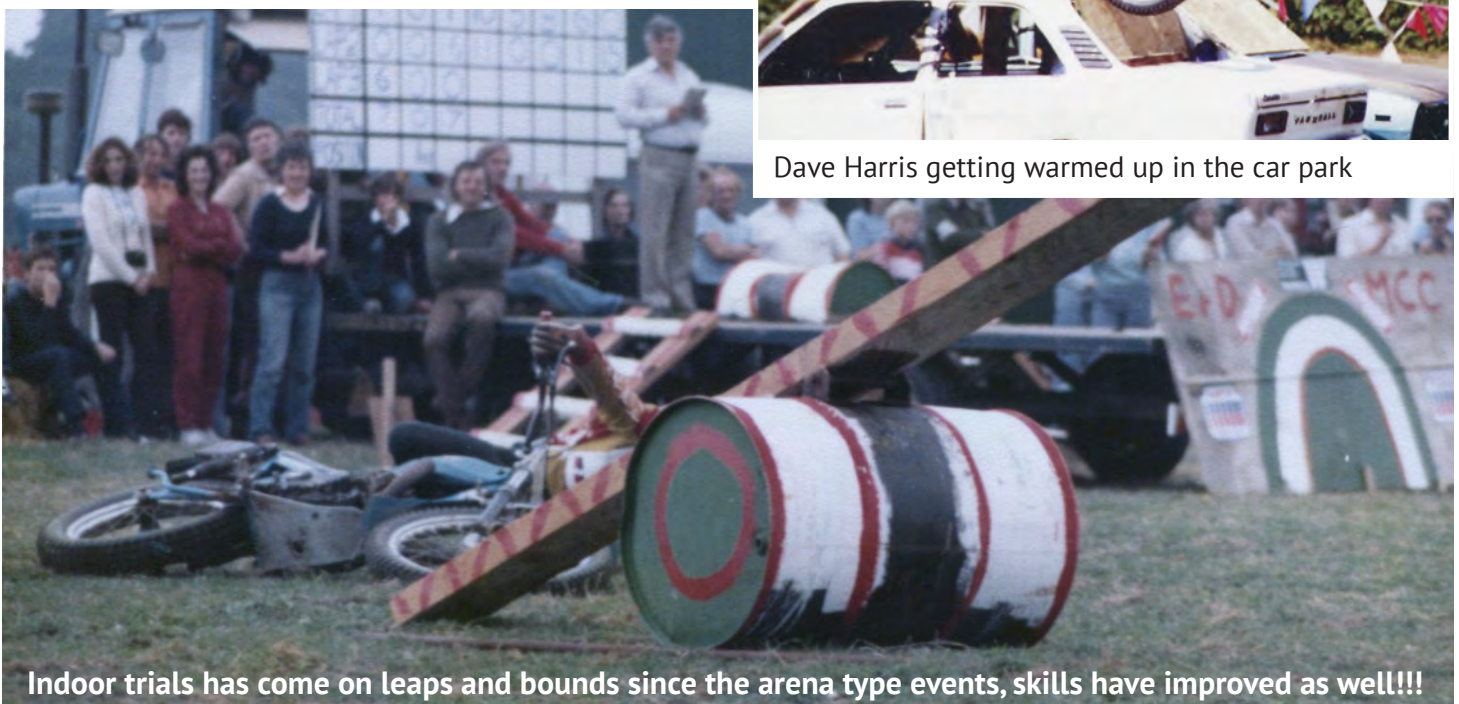
In truth I don't think there is actually a moment where all of a sudden you can then ride at a higher level so I guess it must be practice & regular riding that allows us to make progress but how do even some club riders get so bloody good?

Modern bikes have helped but it's all relative, I'm sure all this was the case in olden black & white times too.

The more I write about this the more I realise this tale is going nowhere, just like my riding skill!



Dave Harris getting warmed up in the car park



Indoor trials has come on leaps and bounds since the arena type events, skills have improved as well!!!

Classic Corner

with Steve Baldock

EDMCC LEGENDS

TRIALS SECRETARY

GLORIA MOSS



Normally our Twistgrip will feature a rider or rider & classic corner bike but this month we are focusing on EDMCC Boss Gloria Moss. Every so often a person comes along & will totally immerse themselves in doing as much as humanly possible for a club, we all the club members all benefit from Gloria's amazing hard work & enthusiasm, she quietly & mostly in the background applies for our monthly ACU trials permits, attends every club trial, signs on all the riders at the trial, deals with membership, attends committee meetings each month, sorts the results (which is tough as sometimes scoreboards come back as a smudge) she also has to deal with the ACU & make sure we don't clash with other clubs events & probably many other tasks that are not known to me. Gloria also has a wicked & very sharp sense of humour that shows itself at our committee meetings & on our WhatsApp group, if I manage to make Gloria laugh I consider the meeting a success. For Gloria trials started when Tom was 13 & and the story is taken up by Gloria in her words.

Thomas wanted a motorbike, Eric said trials was safest, so we tried to find a local trials club. Info was very lacking, eventually we found an EDMCC trial near the trout fishery at the back of Hole Farm, met Ralph Charman and found out about the next trial.

We had got a 250 pinky from Chris Exall at first, but going to the trial we realised the modern bikes were lighter and smaller cc. Got a 125 Gasser in Hailsham and attended a schoolboy morning at Durrants. Thomas was 14, nearly 15, think it was autumn 2005.

The bike was messing about so left Thomas under Ray Foords supervision and dashed home for tools. Got back and Ray advised us that Tom had come off his bike, it was going OK when we left, he had hit a tree I think, he lay on the floor and Ray thought he was knocked out. However he got up got on the bike and carried on riding.

Eric used to scramble on a matchless. Eventually I got volunteered by Eric to join the committee to keep members informed, and started doing Twistgrip in December 2006.

We came to Sussex in 1980 with no previous

experience of farming! We lived in a caravan for almost 12 years. We milked cows for 10 years and when we sold our milk quota we purchased Little Holmstead at auction, we had previously rented it. We grazed beef cattle there for few years, but it became easier to manage the cattle at home, easier to catch them! and now use it for silage bales which are transported to Springwater Farm for winter feeding. It is part of our agricultural holding, we currently have 1 bull, 15 cows and 22 stirks/calves. Also 3 old ponies which are home bred.

One of the other great things about Gloria being EDMCC Boss is that she & her husband Eric allows Eastbourne & District M.C.C. & the GEST club to ride at Little Holmstead Farm which is a brilliant venue with great features, we EDMCC consider this venue to be our Home ground & feel very privileged to be able use it almost any time we want & also try not to take it for granted (but we do).

Gloria has also very usefully provided EDMCC with Tom who as we all know is the Southeast Centre Elite Championship winner & pretty much wins everything he enters which give's EDMCC a huge amount of Kudos.

While doing all the above she still finds the energy & time to attend other clubs events, sometimes observing but mostly taking fantastic photos at all these events.

I look forward to after every club trial to see what she has posted on her Facebook page "Moss trials pics" she always manages to get brilliant shots of the riders & I'm sure most riders Facebook profile photo will be a photo that she took, I'm willing to bet that most riders when seeing Gloria with camera ready will style up their effort or at least hold their stomach in!

I have an album of photos on my iPad of me riding that Gloria took which mostly make me look like I can ride Ok but I do see some amazing action shots of really talented riders doing their thing & occasionally, let's call them victims flying across the landscape into a tree or a very wet stream (there is somewhere on Gloria's page a very funny sequence of photos starring Steve Jones crashing head first into a stream).

Gloria is the first in the Twistgrip legends slot & the most deserving of the legend monicker & probably will be the only non rider to achieve this "Honour" I'm sure everyone will agree with me that she is a Legend in the trials world, especially EDMCC members.

Thanks Gloria.

There are a few other legends associated with EDMCC over the years & I'll be back with their stories when I've cornered them (Twistgrip editor wished me luck with a strange smile when I told him of my next task) & I have enough time to properly listen to their tales & experiences of trials through the years.

Provisional Dates for your Diary

Always check website or social media for any last minute updates as these dates are only ment as a provisional guide.

January 18th

Pilmer Woods Crowborough
SET UP CREW
Steve Stretton Steve Baldock

February 15th

Squirrel Wood
SET UP CREW
Roger, Derek Strudwick, Tony Errey

March 15th

Cow Farm Cowbeach
SET UP CREW
Steve Stretton,

April 19th Good Friday

Conny Burrow Heathfield
SET UP CREW
Wrinkly Brigade

May 17th

Brook House Staple Cross
To be confirmed
SET UP CREW
TBA

June 21st

Starve Crow Magham Down
To be confirmed
SET UP CREW
TBA

July 19th

Brookland Battle
SET UP CREW
TBA

August 16th

Copford Saw Mills Horam
SET UP CREW
TBA

September 20th

Chapmans Town
SET UP CREW
Steve Jones Charlie Cole Charlie Simpson

September 26th

Moor Hall
Open to Centre Light House Trial
SET UP CREW
Team E.D.M.C.C

October 18th

Little Holmstead Rushlake Green
SET UP CREW
TBA

November 15th

Conny Burrow Heathfield
SET UP CREW
TBA

December 27th

Squirrel Wood Magham Down
SET UP CREW
TBA

If you can help out with setting up a trial it will be most appreciated.

If you may have received, and read, an email from Kevan it unfortunately it shows a lack of effort by some throughout 2024!

With this guide above it should help you and the club plan ahead, No excuses now with plenty of time to book time off, or make arrangements for the hair dresser for that shampoo and set on another Saturday or what ever!

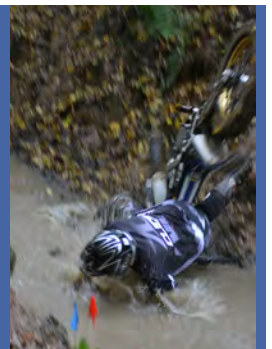
Where you see **TBA** is your opportunity to volunteer! plus you'll receive an entry credit to use on the next trial.

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Always in the right place at the wrong time!
Steve Jones crashing head first into a stream